

REMARKS

This communication is a full and timely response to the aforementioned non-final Office Action dated August 21, 2007. By this communication, claims 2-5 are amended, and claims 11 and 12 are added. Claims 1 and 6-9 were withdrawn from consideration based on the election of Species I illustrated in Figure 2.

Reconsideration of the application and withdrawal of the rejections of the claims are respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

I. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 2, 4 and 5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Sutton, Jr. (U.S. Patent No. 5,968,118, hereinafter "Sutton").

Without acquiescing to this rejection, independent claims 2 and 5 have each been amended to emphasize distinctions between the claimed invention and the applied references. The amendments to claims 2 and 5 are supported throughout the specification and drawings. For example, see lines 6-10 on page 25, lines 10-16 on page 32, and Figure 2.

Applicants respectfully submit that the claimed invention is patentable over the applied references for the following reasons.

Claim 2 recites a signal distribution system comprising a wideband signal distribution system for distributing a plurality of RF modulated signals on 568 standard wiring. The signal distribution system of claim 2 also comprises at least one intelligent device for demodulating single frequency carrier RF signals distributed from the wideband signal distribution system.

Claim 2 recites that the single frequency RF signals comprise digital IP information. In addition, claim 2 recites that the at least one intelligent device includes (1) an RF splitter for splitting the modulated single frequency RF signal into an IP digital signal portion containing the IP information and a non-IP RF modulated signal, (2) a bandpass filter for filtering a predetermined band of the RF signal from the IP digital signal portion, and (3) a demodulator electrically connected to an output of the RF splitter for demodulating the IP digital signal portion split by the RF splitter and filtered by the bandpass filter.

Claim 5 recites a signal distribution system over a network. The signal distribution system of claim 5 comprises a wideband signal distribution system for distributing a plurality of non-IP, RF modulated signals, and at least one intelligent device for demodulating single frequency carrier RF signals distributed from the wideband signal distribution system. Claim 5 recites that the single frequency carrier RF signals comprise IP digital information.

Claim 5 recites that the at least one intelligent device includes (1) an RF splitter for splitting the modulated single frequency RF signal into at least an IP signal portion and the non-IP RF modulated signal, (2) a bandpass filter for filtering a predetermined band of the RF signal from the IP signal portion, and (3) at least one demodulator electrically connected to the RF splitter and for demodulating at least the IP signal portion split by the RF splitter and filtered by the bandpass filter.

In addition, claim 5 recites the at least one intelligent device uses an existing media control access layer of the network in order to control the sharing of media channels among multiple addressable devices in the system.

Applicants respectfully submit that Sutton does not disclose or suggest all the recited features of claims 2 and 5 for the following reasons.

As shown in Figure 2, Sutton discloses a system in which a wall mounted information outlet 52, which is installed in a user's location 54 such as a dorm room, office or shipboard cabin, is connected by a single coax wire 56 to a junction box 60 in a wiring closet 58 (see Column 3, lines 7-12). Sutton discloses that the junction box 60 contains modulator means and demodulator means for communicating over the coax wire 56 with complementary demodulator and modulator means in the information outlet 52. As shown in Figure 2, the junction box 60 receives video signals from a Video Head End 62, TV signals from a set-top-box (STB) 66, data signals from a router/hub 14, and telephone signals from a punch down 16. The junction box 60 and the devices from which it receives these signals are included in the wiring closet 58 to provide a central location for sending voice, video and data to the wall mounted information outlet 52 (see Column 3, lines 21-55).

Sutton discloses that the signals transmitted from the junction box 60 are multiplexed in the coax wire 56 (see Column 3, lines 43-45). The information outlet handles the various signals sent from the junction box 60 by means of a variety of

connectors or ports on the information outlet 56. In particular, Sutton discloses that the information outlet 56 includes a downstream video connector 78, upstream video connectors 80, 81, 83, a telephone jack 72, a data port 84, serial data connectors 86, 88, and infrared ports 90, 92 (see Column 3, lines 56-61).

Column 3, lines 13-15 of Sutton disclose that "[t]he information outlet 52 contains the electronics needed for several modulators and demodulators, so it requires some type of external power connection (not shown)." Based on this disclosure, the Office opined that the modulators and demodulators "separate the signals output from the ports 78, 81-84, 86 and 88." Based on this interpretation, the Office asserted that Sutton discloses the demodulator recited in claims 2 and 5.

This assertion is not supportable. First, Sutton does not disclose that the modulators and demodulators split the various signals received from the junction box 60 into an IP digital signal portion containing the IP information of a single frequency RF signal, and a non-IP modulated signal, as recited in claim 2. Similarly, Sutton does not disclose or suggest that the modulators and demodulators split the various signals received from the junction box 60 into an IP signal portion and a non-IP RF modulated signal, as recited in claim 5.

The Office has mischaracterized the functions of the modulators and demodulators in the information outlet 52. The information outlet 52 and the junction box 60 are disclosed as communicating bi-directionally over the single coax wire 56. As such, signals are modulated so that they can be transported on the coax wire 56. If a device in the location 54 or in the wiring closet 58 does not process modulated signals, then a demodulator will demodulate the modulated signals transported on the coax wire 56.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the modulators and demodulators included in the information outlet 52 do not perform the function of splitting a signal into an IP portion and a non-IP portion, as recited in claims 2 and 5.

Even if the Office maintains its interpretation that a demodulator somehow splits a modulated signal into an IP portion and a non-IP portion, the demodulator cannot correspond to the demodulator recited in claims 2 and 5. In particular, claims 2 and 5 recite that the demodulator demodulates the IP digital signal (claim 2) and the IP signal portion (claim 5) split by the RF splitter. It is unclear how the

demodulator of Sutton can perform both of the functions of RF splitter and demodulator of claims 2 and 5.

Furthermore, Applicants respectfully submit that Sutton does not disclose or suggest that the information outlet 52 of Sutton does not include a bandpass filter for filtering a predetermined band of the RF signal from the IP digital signal portion, as recited in claim 2, and a bandpass filter for filtering a predetermined band of the RF signal from the IP signal portion, as recited in claim 5.

In particular, Sutton does not disclose or suggest that the signals received from the junction box 60 are filtered at the information outlet 52, let alone filtering an IP signal to be received by the computer 74.

Accordingly, for at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that Sutton does not disclose or suggest (1) the RF splitter, (2) the bandpass filter, and (3) the demodulator as recited in claims 2 and 5.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 2 and 5 are patentable over Sutton, since Sutton does not disclose or suggest all the recited features of claims 2 and 5.

II. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Dependent claim 3 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sutton in view of Grau et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,862,451, hereinafter "Grau").

As demonstrated above, Sutton does not disclose or suggest all the recited features of claims 2 and 5. Similar to Sutton, Grau does not disclose or suggest the RF splitter, bandpass filter and demodulator as recited in claims 2 and 5. Consequently, Grau does not cure the deficiencies of Sutton for failing to disclose or suggest all the recited features of claims 2 and 5.

Therefore, no obvious combination of Sutton and Grau would result in the subject matter of claims 2 and 5, since Sutton and Grau, either individually or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest all the recited features of claims 2 and 5.

Furthermore, in view of the distinctions discussed above, Applicants respectfully submit that one skilled in the art would not have reason or been

motivated to modify Sutton and Grau in such a manner as to arrive at, or otherwise render obvious, the subject matter of claims 2 and 5.

Accordingly, for at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 2 and 5, as well as claims 3, 4, 10 and 11 which depend therefrom, are patentable over the applied references.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is clearly in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants request a favorable examination and allowance of the present application.

If, after reviewing this Amendment, the Examiner feels there are any issues remaining which must be resolved before the application can be passed to issue, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone in order to resolve such issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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